

Webarchive Central Asia

Cataloguing Central Asian and Sinkiang Websites

The State and University Library Goettingen (SUB) has funding from the German Research Foundation to build a Special Information Service for Central Asia and Siberia since 2019. A Webarchive for Central Asia is part of the project. This is its homepage: <https://fid-cassib.de/>

Many websites from Central Asia and especially from Sinkiang (Xinjiang) come and go with a short life span. The Wayback Machine of the Internet Archive has been archiving some websites though not all from Central Asia over the years. Often one specific site is archived every few months only though its content may change every day, as is the case with websites of daily newspapers.

The material saved in the wayback machine is difficult to search unless you know the exact URL of the site you are looking for. The URL may long have disappeared from the Web though and only saved in the wayback machine.

Within the Special Information Service for Central Asia and Siberia the SUB Goettingen is cataloguing websites especially in the Uighur language, enriching the catalogue data with keywords and short descriptions.

In cooperation with the service archive.it of the Internet Archive and the Centre of Research Libraries (CRL) specified websites are archived for the Special Information Service Central Asia once a week. These crawls are saved in the collection <https://archive-it.org/collections/13340> This special collection is open to the public. At the moment only Uighur sites are found in this collection.

Websites mainly in Uighur language are catalogued in the German Union Catalogue of Serials (ZDB), as websites are classified as serial publications. The catalogue of the ZDB is part of the Common Library Network (GBV) and the Library Network Southwest Germany (SWB) available in English and German: <https://kxp.k10plus.de/DB=2.1/DB=2.1/LNG=DU/>

On the homepage of this catalogue use the long search slot and insert „aiw website ssg Zentralasien“. This will give you all websites catalogued for the Special Information Service Central Asia. This specific search may be narrowed down by adding keywords like “islam” or “religion”. The code for searchkey is thm (“Thema”). The quotation marks have to be deleted first for the search: aiw website ssg Zentralasien thm islam. The search keys are in German but the data in the background may include an English equivalent (or not). Other key word available in English would be sale, medical, company, Uyghurs, Koran, culture etc. Many searchkeys may be used in one search, like: aiw website ssg Zentralasien thm culture Uyghurs religion. For reasons unknown in some cases only the German keyword works, like: Exil (eng. exile). English and German keywords may be used in the same search, like: aiw website ssg Zentralasien thm Exil Uyghurs.

The catalogue data usually contain a link to the URL of the original website and a link to website as archived in the wayback machine. The catalogue data may at first look restricted to one URL. Please click onto the plus symbol (+) (“Further information”) left of the first URL to see more URLs. The same applies to the summary, which is usually available in German and English. The full summary again can be accessed by clicking onto the + sign.